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LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia on 20 April in Kuala Lumpur concerning the situation in Gorazde and the support for NATO airstrikes for the protection of all United Nations designated safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) S. THANARAJASINGAM
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA BACKS UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REQUEST TO NATO ON SAFE AREAS AND CALLS FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST SERB FORCES IN GORAZDE

Malaysia expresses its grave concern over the continued attacks by the Serb forces on Gorazde, a United Nations designated safe area in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We strongly condemn the brutal carnage of Gorazde by the Serbs, resulting in the death and injury of hundreds of innocent civilians as well as threatening the safety of UNPROFOR personnel. This latest Serbian action is an undisguised manifestation of Serbia's defiance and disregard for the United Nations. It represents a serious challenge to the Security Council and the international community.

Malaysia views the bombardment of Gorazde as a continuation of the cruel policy of ethnic cleansing and part and parcel of Serbian design to establish a Greater Serbia. Malaysia will oppose any move to accept the fait accompli brought about by the use of force.

Malaysia welcomes and supports the decision by the United Nations Secretary-General to request NATO to authorize air strikes for the protection of all United Nations designated safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Malaysia hopes that NATO would respond positively and promptly.

Malaysia also urges the Security Council to lift immediately the arms embargo to allow the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise its right of self-defence.

Kuala Lumpur
20 April 1994